

INFLOWMATION

Westford Water Department Newsletter

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- Elizabeth Denly,
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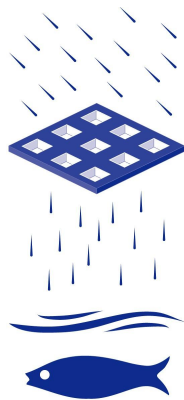
Department Contacts:

- Warren Sweetser,
Superintendent
- Robert Worthley,
Water Treatment Manager
- Robin Fullford,
Business Manager
- Jessica Cajigas,
Environmental Compliance Manager

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WESTFORD BEGINS NEW PROGRAM TO CURB POLLUTION



**STORMWATER
matters.**

As part of its ongoing Stormwater Matters+education effort, the Town of Westford has installed colorful plastic markers beside various storm drains that read: "Don't Pollute, Drains to Waterways". Storm drains connect to underground pipes that convey stormwater, the runoff water from rain and snowmelt, directly to a nearby water body. Whatever flows down a storm drain comes out in the closest wetland, stream, or pond, usually with little or no treatment.

Many people think that storm drains are connected to a sewer or a wastewater treatment plant, says Nancy Bryant, Executive Director of the Sudbury Assabet Concord River Watershed Community Council. Because of this misperception, people often dump wastes down the storm drain such as litter, motor oil, paint, and dog waste, inadvertently polluting our waterways.

Storm drains are designed to quickly move stormwater off of paved surfaces in order to prevent flooding of streets and parking lots. But the stormwater flowing down a storm drain will also contain pollutants from developed land. Pollutants found in stormwater include litter, sand, bacteria, and chemicals such as fertilizer and herbicides from lawns and oil and gas from cars. These pollutants can harm the water quality of the receiving water body, such as rivers, lakes, wetlands and the ocean, which may impact drinking, swimming, fishing, boating, and wildlife.

Educating the public not to dump wastes down storm drains helps reduce pollution to rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, wetlands and groundwater. Preventing pollution to waterways is less expensive than cleaning them up after pollution has occurred. Keeping stormwater clean benefits neighborhoods and commercial districts, as well as the entire network of water bodies and land that make up a watershed.

Watch for the storm drain markers and help spread the word: Stormwater Matters!

For further information contact:

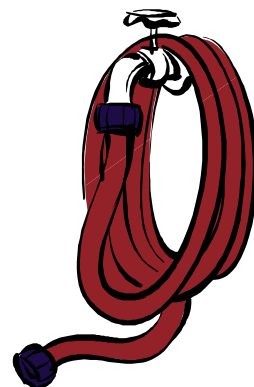
Paul Starratt, 978-692-5520
stormwater@westfordma.gov



Protect Water Pipes During the Cold Winter Months

As winter approaches, we encourage residents to take the necessary steps to prevent damage from frozen pipes. The New England Water Works Association suggests the following tips:

- ♦ **Turn off outside faucets.** Disconnect the hose. Turn off the water from inside your house, then drain the pipe. Leave the outside valve open slightly, so any water left in the pipe can flow out, and not freeze in the line.
- ♦ **Patch any cracks and holes in doors, windows, and walls near pipes.** When temperatures drop to near zero, a high wind blowing through a small opening can freeze a nearby pipe. When patching these openings, do not block the air vents that your furnace needs for proper combustion.
- ♦ **Make sure that heat can circulate around pipes.** Pipes inside or outside walls, or in an enclosed area can freeze, especially when the wind-chill factor is well below zero, if heat is not circulating through these areas.
- ♦ **Insulate pipes and faucets in unheated areas.** Wrap pipes with pipe-insulating material, available at hardware and plumbing supply stores, or any general purpose insulation. Be sure to protect all pipes in unheated areas, such as crawl spaces and garages.
- ♦ **Check insulation around pipes regularly.** Older-model furnaces generated sufficient heat to warm basements in cold weather. Today's energy-efficient heaters, however, limit wasted heat. Homeowners with wood stoves or other heat sources often turn down the furnace, which could lower temperatures in the basement.
- ♦ **Never shut off your heat completely.** If you are planning to leave your home for an extended period and you don't drain your pipes, you should lower the thermostat, but never shut it off. The lack of heat can freeze the pipes in walls and the basement. If freezing occurs, the pipes will burst. When the house warms up, the thawing water will cause flooding and possibly damage your house.



Keep access to hydrants open

As we head into the snowy winter months, we again ask for your assistance in keeping access to fire hydrants clear. It is so important to public safety to keep the hydrants accessible. After storms, it can sometimes be a few days before Town crews can clear the snow away, so any help you can offer is greatly appreciated.



Westford Fire Department Celebrates 100 years!

The Westford Fire Department has invited the Town of Westford to participate in celebrating their 100th Anniversary. There will be a Firefighter's Ball at the Westford Regency on Saturday October 25, 2008. Cocktail Hour starts at 6:30 PM, followed by Dinner & Entertainment at 7:30 PM. Tickets are available at the Westford Fire Headquarters for \$40.00 per person.

Menu Includes: Soup, Salad, Sirloin Steak, and Dessert

Vegetarian meal available upon request

Please join them as they celebrate 100 years of fire-fighting in the Town of Westford. Many surprises have been planned for what will be a fun evening.

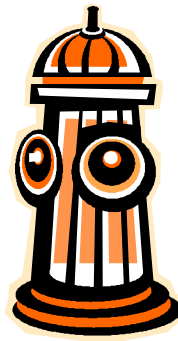


InFLOWmation is published twice a year for all residents and businesses of Westford. Our goal is to keep you informed of events, our challenges and our accomplishments. We also strive to educate and encourage good stewardship of our water resources.

RAINGARDEN AT THE DAY SCHOOL

The Westford Water, Engineer, Highway, Permitting, and School Departments are working with local company Stantec Consulting to design and construct a raingarden at the Day School. A raingarden uses soils, plants, and microbes to treat stormwater before it is discharged to a water body. This raingarden will also be used for educational purposes by the Living Lab. Construction is planned for the spring. If you have any plant or other materials that you would like to contribute to the raingarden please contact Jessica Cajigas at the Water Department, 978-399-2457.

Flushing to begin Oct. 14th and will continue for about 6 weeks in the Nabnasset Area



Flushing will be conducted between 8am and 3pm, Monday through Friday. There may be situations when we will also flush at night between the hours of 10pm and 2am. During these times, water pressure may be low and the water discolored.

Let the water run awhile and it should clear up quickly. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you but you should notice better water after the flushing program is completed. Thank you for your assistance!

PERCHLORATE AND WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT UPDATE:

The Town of Westford has been responding to perchlorate contamination issues in the area surrounding Snake Meadow Hill since 2004. The Town and Maine Drilling and Blasting have been identified as Potentially Responsible Parties in the Notice of Responsibility (NOR) issued in October 2007 by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

Based upon well sample results and the MassDEP perchlorate limit of 2 parts per billion (ppb) for potable water, the perchlorate contamination has adversely impacted private wells and one of the Town's public water supply wells (Cote Well). In response to the observed perchlorate contamination, the Town has distributed bottled water for potable use to residents along Groton Road and installed emergency treatment for the Cote Well to allow limited use during peak water demand periods.

Currently, the Town is proceeding with the design and public bid of a water main extension along Groton Road, which will permanently service the most critically affected residents with perchlorate-contaminated private wells and eliminate the need for bottled water. It is anticipated that bid results will be received prior to Special Town Meeting (STM) scheduled for October 20, 2008, with construction starting this fall. The Town has requested a low interest loan for the water main construction costs under the DEP Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which will significantly lower the overall projects costs.

The proposed water main extension is a significant step in addressing the most urgent issues related to the perchlorate contamination. However, the construction of this water main extension and the approval of "emergency" DWSRF funds are contingent upon approval of the local appropriation at STM. The Town encourages residents to attend Selectmen's meeting prior to STM to learn more and comment about this project. Residents should also understand that according to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 21E, Section 5(e), MassDEP has the legal authority to complete the project and subsequently charge the Town up to three times the actual cost. We encourage your attendance at STM at the Abbot Elementary School, Monday, October 20, 2008 at 7:30pm.

**Westford Water Department
INFLOWMATION October 2008
60 Forge Village Road
Westford, MA 01886**

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Visit Our Website!
www.westfordma.gov/water



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Westford, MA 01886

Hours of Operation:

7am to 4pm Monday-Friday
(except Holidays)

How to Reach Us

Main Phone Line (978) 692-5529
Superintendent (978) 399-2454
Water Treatment Manager
(978) 399-2456
Business Manager (978) 399-2453
Environmental Compliance Manager
(978) 399-2457
Billing and Property Transfers
(978) 692-5529
Accounts Payable (978) 692-5529

After Hours

In the event of a water emergency outside of the work day, call the Police Department at 978-692-2161. The police dispatcher will contact our on-call personnel for quick response.

Cross-Connection Control/Backflow Prevention Program

Controlling cross-connections and preventing backflow is critical to ensuring the safety of your drinking water. In any distribution system, potential cross-connections and therefore sources of contamination can be numerous, varied, and unpredictable.

MassDEP requires public water suppliers to have a comprehensive distribution system protection program to prevent drinking water contamination from unapproved sources. The purpose of the program is to prevent back siphoning of non-potable water (such as water from irrigation systems, sewers, drains, boilers, pools, etc.) into the public drinking water distribution system.

Cross-connections can occur at many points throughout a distribution system and a community's plumbing infrastructure. Cross-connections can be identified by looking for physical interconnections between a customer's plumbing and the water system.

Cross-connection and backflow prevention information is available at the Water Department and on the Department's website (www.westfordma.gov/water).



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